

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 and 10-57 are pending in this application. Claims 1-8, 10-16, and 23-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,388,654 to Platzker et al. (herein "Platzker") in view of U.S. patent 6,707,444 to Hendriks et al. (herein "Hendriks") and U.S. patent 6,332,684 to Shibatani et al. (herein "Shibatani"). Claims 17-22 and 52-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Platzker in view of Hendriks and further in view of U.S. patent 5,504,544 to Dreyer et al. (herein "Dreyer").

Addressing the above-noted rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), those rejections are traversed by the present response.

Initially, applicants note each of independent claims 1, 23, 24, and 31 is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, those claims further recite:

wherein said blocking part blocks the light beam emitted from the projecting part so as to prevent all of the light beam from being applied to the projection surface.

Such a claim structure is believed to be fully supported by the original specification in for example the description describing Figures 10A and 10B, particularly describing that the light-blocking plate 21 is provided instead of turning on/off of a light source of a projector 4, and so forth.

With reference to Figures 10A and 10B in the present specification as a non-limiting example, a shutter 21 can act as a blocking part to block projection all of light to simply and easily stop the projection by merely rotating the shutter to cover the light source of the projector 4. Then, an image existing on the screen can be picked up by a camera 7 with a benefit of positively avoiding interference of the projection light. Then, after that, the shutter is again rotated to uncover the light source, and the projection can be started again. With

such a scheme it is not necessary to actually turn off/on the light source, and thus it is possible to effectively lengthen the life of the light source.

Such a structure as discussed above is believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

The outstanding Office Action recognizes that Platzker does not disclose the claimed “blocking part”, and the outstanding rejection now cites the teachings in Shibatani to disclose such subject matter, and particularly with respect to the light blocking mask 57 shown in Figure 33 of Shibatani.¹

In that regard applicants respectfully submit the light blocking mask 57 in Shibatani does not correspond to the claimed “blocking part”.

As noted above the claimed “blocking part” has a structure to completely block *all of* the emitted light beam, to prevent an adverse influence in a photographing operation by a CCD camera. As discussed above the feature of the light blocking part in the noted claims is to prevent all light from the light beam from being applied to a projection surface, so that it is not necessary to actually turn off/on the light source, to thereby effectively lengthen the life of the light source.

In contrast to the claimed features, the light blocking mask 57 in Shibatani merely blocks extra light, but also has many holes to let light pass therethrough. As clearly set forth in Shibatani the light blocking mask 57 is shown in Figure 34A, and Figure 34A clearly shows the holes in the light blocking mask 57 that allow light to pass therethrough. Thereby, in Shibatani the light block mask 57 does not correspond to the claimed “blocking part” and can not even perform the same role as the claimed “blocking part”. Namely, the light blocking mask 57 in Shibatani does not prevent a light beam from being applied to a projection surface, and thereby the light blocking mask 57 of Shibatani cannot achieve a

¹ Office Action of January 25, 2005, page 4, second paragraph.

function of making it unnecessary to actually turn off/on a light source, as can be realized by the claimed features.

In such ways, each of amended independent claims 1, 23, 24, and 31 is believed to clearly distinguish over the applied combination of teachings of Platzker in view of Hendriks and Shibatani.

Further with respect to independent claim 38, applicants respectfully submit the outstanding rejection has not even properly addressed the features in those claims. More specifically, independent claim 38 specifically recites elements of a "shifting part ...", "said photography part...", "a combining part...", as was previously recited in dependent claim 10.

The only comments in the Office Action addressing the features in independent claim 38 state:

Platzker adds that the focusing of projections can be either performed manually to the user's satisfaction or it can be performed automatically. It would have been obvious that one can use the focusing which equivalently provides the desired "shifting of a photography area". See col. 7, lines 58-63. Platzker also teaches that production of composite images that can be created by merging any number of input images. See col. 10, lines 67 and col. 11, lines 1-3.²

First, applicants note the above-noted basis for the outstanding rejection is not at all understood as it does not even address all of the positively recited features in claim 38. That is, the Office Action does not indicate where Platzker, or any other cited reference for that matter, discloses or suggests the above-noted positively recited claim features. The outstanding Office Action appears to simply disregard the claimed features.

As stated in M.P.E.P. §2143:

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference

² Office Action of January 25, 2005, the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6.

teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

The outstanding rejection with respect to claim 38 has not met any of the criteria noted above to establish a proper *prima facie* case of obviousness. More specifically, the rejection of claim 38 has not indicated any basis for modifying Platzker to meet the claimed limitations, has not indicated how such a modification could have a reasonable expectation of success, and has not indicated any prior art references that actually meet all of the claim limitations. In such ways the rejection of claim 38 is clearly improper.

Moreover, applicants note claims 38-57 are not directed to merely performing different focusing operations, but are specifically directed to shifting a photography area, taking a photograph several times, and combining the photographed images. Such features are clearly unrelated to having a manual or automatic focusing operation as in Platzker.

Applicants also note that as described in the present specification, for example with respect to Figures 20-24 as a non-limiting example, by employing the scheme discussed above and recited in independent claim 38, it is possible to achieve a high-resolution image even with a camera not having a high-resolution performance, with a simple configuration. Platzker does not teach or suggest any similar operation or achieving any similar benefits.

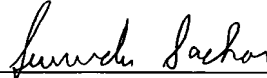
In such ways, applicants respectfully submit independent claim 38, and the claims dependent therefrom, also clearly distinguish over the applied art.

Application No. 10/085,732
Reply to Office Action of January 25, 2005.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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